

**period of study.** Although 1992 deaths are now available, 1991 is the latest birth year for which infant deaths have been matched to a birth certificate.

Due to the statistical problem of small numbers, this report includes very little county-level data. Where those data are presented, it should be noted that many of the counties' rates or percentages may be unstable due to random fluctuation associated with small numbers.

Throughout this report, reference is made to those Year 2000 national health objectives that are specific for adolescents.<sup>7</sup> A complete listing of the national objectives for adolescents and young adults is provided in Appendix 1. This report is also liberally endowed with results from the 1993 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS),<sup>8</sup> which is described on page 30. Appendix 2 is the actual survey instrument. It should be noted that the YRBS results do not conform exactly to the Year 2000 risk reduction objectives but are related indicators for tracking North Carolina trends.

All data in this report are for residents of the state or county. Definitions and formulas for the terms and rates of this report are found in the Glossary, beginning on page 27.

## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

In 1990, adolescents (ages 10-19) comprised 14 percent of the state's population — 13 percent of whites and 18 percent of minorities. These figures were down from 18, 17, and 22 percent respectively in 1980.

Table 1 shows, for race and Hispanic population groups, the 1990 numbers of adolescents by age and the overall percent changes since 1980. While the numbers of white and black adolescents declined, the number of American Indians rose. However, as noted elsewhere, race-identity practices appear to have changed during the 1970s and 1980s with increased numbers of people identifying themselves as American Indians.<sup>10</sup>

Although 11,807 Hispanics aged 10-19 were counted in 1990, almost 10,000 people aged 14-17 reportedly spoke Spanish or Spanish Creole at home in 1990, according to the census. Thus, the Hispanic figures of Table 1 very likely reflect undercounts.

In Figure 1, shadings depict, for four race-sex groups, the number of adolescents living in census tracts (metropolitan counties) or block numbering areas (nonmetropolitan counties) in 1990 (see Glossary). The state is comprised of a combined total of 1,492 census tracts (CTs) and block numbering areas (BNAs). The three categories of each map are approximately equal in terms of the number of subdivisions (CTs and BNAs) represented.

For each race group, the male and female maps of Figure 1 are very similar. The separation by sex is intended to aid those interested solely in female counts (for estimating family planning need). The reader will note the higher concentration of minorities (nonwhites) compared to whites in the eastern part of the state.

Other available 1990 census data for North Carolina adolescents are provided in Table 2. Given that availability and comparisons to 1980 are very limited, the following findings seem notable:

- Between 1980 and 1990, the percentage of minority adolescents living in rural areas declined 13 percent, further increasing the racial difference in urban-rural distribution. In 1990, the percentages of white and minority adolescents living in rural areas were 56 and 40 respectively.
- In 1989, poverty was much more prevalent among minorities aged 12-17 (30%) than among their white counterparts (8%).
- Between 1980 and 1990, the percentage of persons 10-17 not enrolled in school rose about 30 percent for each race group to 5.7 for whites and 6.7 for minorities.